A LAMENTATION

FOR THE

Deceived People of the WORLD.

But in particular

To them of *Alesbury*, and thoſe ſmall Villages round about her; who are carried away captive by her Prieſts and Teachers, laden with ſins, ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the Truth, nor never will, but by owning the Light which comes from the Son of God, the Saviour of all them that believe in the Light, and the Condemnation of all that hate it.

The Leaders of my People cauſeth them to erre, and my People periſh for lack of knowledge, ſaith the Lord.

HEARKEN and Hear, O Inhabitants of *Alesbury*; And to the ſmall Villages round about thee: for thus ſaith the Lord, Take up a Lamentation for her, and lament her, in this the day of my power, ſaith the Lord; For I have meaſured thee, as I meaſured *Sodome* in the day of her highneſſe, and the ſame ſin that I found in her, is found in thee, ſaith the Lord, pride, haughtineſſe, and fulneſſe of bread, ſo that thou loatheſt the honey and the honey comb; ſo that the voice of

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the Lord is not heard in thee, through the greatneſſe of thy pride and thy Idolatry : Oh how the Juſt is oppreſſed as a cart is preſſed that is full of ſheaves, through the abominations and the witch craft which is committed in thee; therefore the flight ſhall periſh from the ſwift, and the ſtrong ſhall not ſtrengthen his force, neither ſhall the mighty deliver himſelfe, neither ſhall he ſtand which handleth the Bow, and he that is ſwift of foot ſhall not deliver himſelfe, neither ſhall he that rideth the horſe deliver himſelfe, and he that is couragious among the mighty ſhall flee away naked in that day, ſaith the Lord; *They that have an eare to hear, let them hear.*

Therefore Repent, Repent, oh Inhabitants. for the Vialls of the fierce wrath of the Lord God, is to be powred out upon you, except you ſpeedily Repent. The dayes of Viſitation are come, the dayes of recompence are come, *Iſrael* ſhall know it; the Prophet is a fool, the ſpirituall man is mad, for the multitude of thine iniquity, and thy great hatred. Therefore I warn you all in the preſence of the dreadfull God of heaven and earth, that ye repent and return unto the Lord, in this the day of his power, for dreadfull and terrible will he be to all the workers of iniquity.

And now conſider, and be thou warned, and bring forth fruits meet for repentance, for the kingdome of heaven is at hand, it is nigh you, its even at the door. Therefore repent, repent, for the crooked way ſhall be made ſtrait, and the rough way ſhall be made ſmooth, and every valley ſhall be filled, and every mountaine and hill ſhall be brought low, that all fleſh may ſee the ſalvation of God. But this ſalvation, and this cry, hath not entred into your ears, who have refuſed the ſervants of the moſthigh God, which hath been ſent often times unto you, with this cry in their mouths, but you have not regarded, nor hearkned to the voice of the Lord, which hath often times been declared amongſt you; and you have deſpiſed them that have been ſent unto you, ſome of them have been kept in your priſon, and ſome have you ſmitten in your Market, and others have bin ſtoned for reproving ſin in your

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your ſtreets, and ſome you have ſaid had a Devill, when they have reproved you of ſin : and now is this Scripture fulfilled in your eares this day, where Chriſt ſaid, *They ſhall perſecute you, and ſhall ſay all manner of evill falſly againſt you, for my names ſake.*

And here thou art found guilty in this the day of the Lord, and of his power, which day makes thee manifeſt, and naked, and bare, before the Lord, who ſearcheth the heart and tries the reines. And none of thy coverings will now cover thee, in this the day of the Lord ; if a profeſſion would have ſerved, there is no lack of that in thee, but that will not ſtand in the dreadfull day of God, when thou muſt give an account for every idle word, and for every vaine thought, Then what will become of thy Profeſſion ? That is not (that) which will ſtand when the Lord ſhall appear, they are all too narrow they will not cover thee, but ye are all ſeen and comprehended by the children of light, in this the day of his everlaſting power : for you deny the light Chriſt Jeſus, that lighteth every man that cometh into the world ; and he that denies the light, wherewith he is lighted, which ſhines in darkneſſe, though the darkneſſe comprehends it not, which light checks and condemns all the deeds of darkneſſe, and all they which denies this, denies the way which leads unto life ; This is the ſtrait and narrow way, and few there be that findes it.

And herein is the Scripture fulfilled, as it is written, *There is none righteous, no not one, there is none that underſtandeth, there is none that ſeeketh after God, they are all gone out of the way, they are altogether become unprofitable, there is none that doth good no not one, their throat is an open Sepulchre, with their Tongues they have uſed deceit, the poiſon of Asps is under their lips, whoſe month is full of curſing and bitterneſſe, they are ſwift to ſhed blood, deſtruction and miſery is in their wayes, and the way of peace they have not known, there is no fear of God before their eyes.*

Hear ye ſinners, and ye that live in pride and coveteouſneſſe, in the faſhions and cuſtomes of the world, in the Traditions

ditions of men, having mens perſons in admiration for advantage. And here you are all ſeen to be gone out of the way, Prieſt and People, for the way of peace you cannot witneſſe; but ſome of you declared you have not peace, and others of you complain of a body of ſin, and you have no refuge to flie to, and ſo you are found naked, and your ſin is not covered, *Who is wiſe and he ſhall underſtand theſe things, (prudent), and he ſhall know them, for the wayes of the Lord are right, and the juſt ſhall walk in them, but the tranſgreſſors ſhall fall therein.*

And the Prophet deſcribeth, *Bleſſed are they whoſe iniquities are forgiven, and whoſe ſins are covered*; but your ſins are not covered, therefore you appear naked, and this bleſſedneſſe is not known unto you: Therefore conſider, are you not out of the way which is pure, and undefiled, which no vulterous eye hath ever ſeen, nor no venomous beaſt hath ever trodden in this path, but it is for the ranſomed and the redeemed of the Lord to walk therein, but redemption you will not own, nor the path which is pure you know not; therefore you are found in the way of *Balacke*, who offered ſacrafices and burnt offerings to curſe *Iſrael*, whom God had bleſſed; and *Jeſabell* when ſhe had a purpoſe to deſtroy *Naboth*, ſhe cauſed a Faſt, that her intention might be brought to paſſe, nevertheleſſe ſhe had a day, and did not repent, *He that hath an ear to hear, let him hear.*

Thereefore I warn you all in the fear and dread of the Lord God to Repent of theſe crimes which is found among you, for none of your coverings will cover you in this the day of the Lord which is coming upon you, and upon all fleſh, for the glory of all fleſh muſt be ſtained in the day of his power, your Steeple-houſe worſhip will not hide you, nor your Baptiſt worſhip will not hide you, your Independing will not cover you from the fierce wrath of the Lamb.

Therefore woe, woe, is me, how great is my Lamentation for you O Inhabitants, where will you be, or with what will

will you be covered in this terrible day of the Lord, which is coming upon you? For that day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distresse, a day of wastnesse and desolation, a day of darknesse and gloominesse, a day of clouds and thick darknesse, a day of Trumpet and Alarm against the fenced Cities, and against the high Towers. And I will bring distresse upon men, that they shall walk like blinde men, because they have sinned against the Lord, and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung, neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them, in the day of the Lords wrath, but the whole Land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousie, for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the Land; and a through search will the Lord God make in the earth, and *Jerusalem* must be searched with candles, for the Lord God will cleanse the Land of evill doers, and the Lord knows your manifold Transgressions, and your mighty Sins, you afflict the Just, and ye take a bribe, and ye turn aside the poor in the gate; therefore the prudent shall keep silence in that time, for it is an evill time: Therefore whilst you have time Repent, and seek good and not evill, that ye may live; and so the Lord, the God of Hosts, shall be with you (as ye have spoken) and the light of *Israel* shall be for a fire, and his holy one for a flame, and it shall burn and devoure his thorns and his bryars in one day.

Therefore come down to the light of Christ Jesus, the light of *Israel*, which shines in your consciences, which checks and condemns you, for all your deeds of darknesse, and brings to your remembrance all things that ever you have done; is not this the Christ which was to come, and why doe you look for another? and there is no other, nor no other Name under heaven, whereby you may be saved, but by this name Christ Jesus, the light of the world, and lighteth every man which cometh into the world, which suffered at *Jerusalem* without the gate; this same Christ doe we own, and witnesse him to be made manifest in us, and to be made salvation to us, through the operation of his power

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and his mighty work in us, which works in us both to will and to doe, according to his good pleasure.

And now consider in the coolnesse of your spirits, and come down to that of God in you, which checks you when you doe amisse, and shews you that you should not doe so: This is that grace of God, which hath appeared to all men, which brings salvation, which was always the Saints teacher, and we are taught by it, as the Lord God hath promised, and we need no more say, know the Lord, for we all know him from the least to the greatest, and by his teaching we are taught to deny all ungodlinesse and worldly lust, and to live soberly and righteously in this present world. Therefore I exhort you all in the fear of the Lord, to come down to this grace of God, which hath appeared unto you, that you may witnesse your teaching of God, and that will stand you in stead, when the Lord God shall appear with ten thousand of his Saints, to execute Judgement upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them, of all their ungodly deeds, which they have ungodly committed, and all their hard speeches, which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. And now while you have time prize it, and slight not the day of your Visitation, least the day of the Lord come upon you as a Thiefe in the night, and there be none to deliver you.

A Word to you who have set your selves as Heads and Teachers of this People.

YOu are all seen in this the day of the Lord, and are all comprehended by the children of light, who walk in the light, that you are out of the strait and narrow way, where there there is no variousnesse, nor shadow of turning, neither to the right hand nor to the left, where no errour is, and where none can be deceived. For truly I am full of power by the Spirit of the Lord, and of judgement, and of might,

might, to declare unto you your transgreſſions and your ſins : The Heads thereof judge for reward, and the Prieſts thereof teach for hire, and the Prophets thereof divine for money, yet will they lean upon the Lord and ſay, is not the Lord amongſt us ? no evill can come upon us ; But thus ſaith the Lord of hoſts, Hearken not unto the words of the Prophets, that Prophecy unto you, that make you vaine, they ſpeak a viſion of their own hearts, and not out of the mouth of the Lord, they ſay ſtill unto them that deſpiſe me, the Lord hath ſaid ye ſhall have peace, and they ſay unto every one that walketh after the imaginations of his own heart, no evill ſhall fall upon you : and ye are ſuch Teachers that ſay you have a body of ſin, and tell the people that they muſt have ſin, while they live in the world ; and here you are made manifeſt, that you have not received the Miniſtry of reconciliation, nor you know not that which reconciles betwixt God and man, that which breaks down the partition wall, and makes of twain one new man.

Therefore ceaſe you Deceivers from deceiving the People, and ſtop your mouths from blaſpheming the name of the righteous God, till you have departed from iniquity, for our God is a conſuming fire, and he anſwereth by fire. Therefore you are of *Babell*, for you have been crying and profeſſing theſe many years, and your ſins are ſtanding, and your iniquity is not covered ; Hear ye perverters of Scripture, and teach men ſo to doe, and where will you be cleanſed ? will you have a Purgatory after death, as the Papiſt Prieſts and Jeſuites will have, if ſo we deny you, and all your Jeſuiticall damnable doctrine.

Woe unto you Deceivers, woe unto you Merchants of *Babylon*, that buy and ſell the Letter for money, woe and miſery is your portion, except ye Repent, ye devourers of Gods Inheritance, God will rule you with his rod of iron, & daſh you in peices like a potters veſſell, and there ſhall be none to deliver you, for the day is come and coming, that they ſhall not buy your Merchandize any more.

And

And ſo be you all warned Prieſts and People, and Repent, for I am clear of your blood at this time in the preſence of the dreadfull God of heaven and earth, who draws near unto Judgement.

From me who am a lover of ſoules, and the truth, as it is in Jeſus : who am in ſcorn called a Quaker, *but am known to many by the name of*

Jeane Bettris.

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